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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

McEldowney: We Must Find New Methods against the PKK -  
Milliyet  
US Promises to Fight against the PKK - Sabah  
Grossman: Turks Have Captured Ocalan, Not the US - Milliyet  
A New US Delegation in Turkish Cyprus - Aksam  
Turkish Cabinet Discusses Anti-Terror Draft - Aksam  
Israel Warns Nationals: Grave Terror Threat in Turkey -  
Aksam  
Danish PM Suggests Privileged Partnership for Turkey -  
Milliyet  
Lifetime Jail Sentence for Praise of Terror in Britain -  
Hurriyet  
Tehran Pushes Nuclear Button - Sabah  
Oil Prices Set New Record: USD 63.99 - Milliyet  
Famous Anchorman Jennings Dies - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Erdogan Asks McEldowney about Terrorist Infiltrations into  
Turkey - Yeni Safak  
McEldowney: US Working to Cut Financial Aid to the PKK -  
Zaman  
US-Turkey-Iraq Agree on Action Framework for Combating the  
PKK - Yeni Safak  
Nicosia Angered at Second US Delegation Visit to North  
Cyprus - Zaman  
Iraq Discusses its Constitution - Yeni Safak  
Iraq, US Forces Block 700 Syrian Trucks from Returning Home  
- Yeni Safak  
Cooperation among Tehran-Damascus - Yeni Safak  
Schroeder-Merkel Coalition Rumor Rocks Berlin - Zaman  
Israeli Army Orders Settlers to Evacuate Gaza - Yeni Safak  
More Than Half of the Israelis Support Gaza Pullout - Zaman

BRIEFING

Charge McEldowney Meets PM Erdogan: The US Charge  
d'Affaires in Ankara, Nancy McEldowney, told the press after  
meeting with Prime Minister Erdogan on Monday that the US  
was determined to continue helping Turkey in its fight with  
PKK terrorism, papers report. The US condemned the  
terrorist organization PKK, its leaders and its terrorist  
activities, said McEldowney. McEldowney noted that more  
ways should be found to handle the ongoing PKK attacks that  
claimed innocent lives in Turkey, adding that the US  
intensified efforts to cut the financial flows that come  
from Europe and elsewhere in the world to support the PKK.  
`We will work together with the Iraqi authorities, and with  
the Turks, to stop the PKK attacks that are coming from  
northern Iraq. In a free and united Iraq, there is no place  
for terrorism,' she stressed, adding: `The goal of  
terrorists is to divide free and democratic nations like  
Turkey and America. We will not allow the terrorists to  
succeed. We will not allow them to divide us.' McEldowney  
said that she had a `wide-ranging and very positive'  
discussion with Erdogan, and called for a `deeper and  
stronger' strategic partnership among the US and Turkish  
governments and nations. The US fully supported Turkey's  
domestic reforms and EU drive, McEldowney stressed, adding  
that it was determined to end the isolation of Turkish  
Cyprus as well. The Charge emphasized that the US and  
Turkey cooperated to prevent terrorism everywhere it occurs,  
and underlined that Turkish troops commanded the ISAF  
operation twice in Afghanistan, and worked in the Balkans  
and in other places around the world to achieve common  
purposes of the two countries. Asked about how the US has  
evaluated the remarks of PM Erdogan with regard to possible  
Turkish cross-border incursions into Iraq, McEldowney said  
that talks between the US and Turkey continued intensively  
both bilaterally and on a trilateral basis between the  
United States, Turkey, and Iraq, Charge McEldowney said.  
"Hurriyet" says that once the Turkey-Iraq agreement on

extradition of criminals that was signed during the Saddam Hussein regime is renewed, the two countries will set up a mechanism for a handover of criminals in Iraq.

Grossman Interview With "Milliyet": The following is a summary of the second part of an interview with Marc Grossman carried today in "Milliyet."

`It is very difficult to convince the Turks that the lack of US security operations against the PKK was caused by military reasons and not political ones, as long as ruthless attacks such as the bombings in Kusadasi continue. However, the United States is determined to be through with the PKK sooner or later. But such an operation may not be as swift as the Turkish nation expects.'

`I hope that Americans will launch more actions against the PKK in the forthcoming months. Meanwhile, the Turkish government should do its best to see the Iraqi government take action against the PKK. Now the Iraqis are also saying that the PKK is a terrorist organization, and that it cannot continue its presence in northern Iraq.'

`If the conditions for Turkey's hot pursuit of the PKK militants occur, Turkish military officials should consult the US and Iraqi security forces in the region. I believe that whatever is necessary will be done.'

`I have never met anybody in the US government supporting the idea of the establishment of a Kurdish state inside Turkey's borders. We have always fully supported Turkey's territorial integrity, and we will continue to do so. With regard to Iraq, we are expending our blood and money there. We did not risk our blood and money for an Iraq that is to be partitioned.'

`There is an important philosophical and historical difference between Turkey and Iraq, and that is federalism. We are a federal state, Turkey is unitary. Hence, Turks can't quite understand us fully when we say that more local autonomy is needed somewhere. The main issue here is that the US must defend Turkey's territorial integrity to the utmost.'

`The US Administration probably cannot grasp the indignation caused in Turkey over the possibility that Kirkuk may be left under Kurdish control. The Bush Administration's vision of Iraq has largely been devoted to suppressing the insurgency and implementing the constitutional timetable. If a constitution based on tolerance for diversity leading to a united Iraq is made, it may ease the resolution of the Kirkuk problem.'

`There is no doubt that the US worked hard in the capture of Ocalan. Ocalan was captured by the Turks. When Turkey forced Ocalan out of Damascus, he fled and an opportunity arose to capture the PKK's leader. And we have considered it a moral obligation to pursue Ocalan and take him to court. Ocalan's capture has been a great victory for US-Turkey cooperation.'

Ereli on US-Turkey-Iraq Security Talks, Cyprus: US State Department Spokesman Adam Ereli is quoted by dailies that the three-party Washington talks among the US, Turkey and Iraq held last weekend were useful, very open and constructive. Ereli told a daily press briefing yesterday that the delegations of the three countries agreed on the framework of future activities, and the formation of working groups for technical talks. Responding to a question by a Greek reporter, Ereli said that the visit by a US Congress delegation to north Cyprus was not against American and international laws. The US Congress delegation is responsible for its visits and decisions, Ereli noted, adding that the US State Department neither permitted, nor blocked the visit. Ereli also stressed that the US supported lifting economic sanctions on north Cyprus. `The American government personnel can fly to north Cyprus and this is not against the laws,' Ereli said.

Evidence Proving Links Between the PKK, Kurdish Parties in Kirkuk: "Cumhuriyet" reports that Ankara has presented the US with evidence proving organic ties between the PKK and 'Kurdistan Democratic Solution Party' and 'Democratic Reconstruction Party' in Kirkuk. A Turkish intelligence file showing that the Kurdish parties' offices in Kirkuk have been managed by the PKK leaders Murat Karayilan and Cemil Bayik, and that the parties had pledged loyalty to the PKK after they were being founded. The US side said it will examine the proofs, says "Cumhuriyet."

US Congressional Staffers Visit North Cyprus: A seven-member delegation from the US Congress and Senate arrived in Turkish Cyprus on Monday as the guest of Turkish Cypriot Industry Chamber (KTSO), papers report. The American delegation will be received by the Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and Foreign Minister Serdar Denktas, and

meet with the leaders of political parties and NGOs before leaving the `TRNC' on August 14, say reports. KTSO said that their main goal was to explain Cyprus question to those who had `important positions.' Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou claimed that the US State Department is keeping a distance with the congressional staffers visiting Cyprus' `invaded areas,' government-affiliated "Cyprus News Agency" (CNA) reports. `The US State Department does not know much about the trip, which is not funded by Congress. As far as we know, members of the House are not participating in this visit,' he said. Iacovou also said that this was not a direct flight to the `illegal' airport at occupied Tympou (Ercan Airport) but one through Turkey.

**Cicek on Terrorism, PKK, Anti-Terror Law:** Justice Minister and Government Spokesman Cemil Cicek said that the Turkish government was determined to take all measures against terrorism. Cicek told the press following a cabinet meeting Monday that it will not be possible for terrorist organizations to survive if there was not any foreign support. Cicek complained that Turkey has not received necessary support from the international community in efforts to cut the support to terrorist organizations. `What we call as terrorists can be seen as freedom fighters by other countries,' Cicek said. Cicek added that an anti-terror draft bill would be submitted to the council of ministers on September 2. Evaluating possible US action against the PKK's top leadership, Cicek said that Turkey expected concrete steps, and would not deem sufficient a mere putting of organizations in terror lists. `We expect more cooperation with the US now in countering terrorism. Terrorism is not a concern solely for Turkey, it is a crime against humanity,' he emphasized. Cicek added that the issue of terrorism will also be raised at the next meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) on August 23. Cicek said in response to recent remarks by the Chief of the General Staff (TGS) General Ozkok in which Ozkok had complained about the curtailed authority of the military in fighting terrorists that the government would do all to meet the army's requirements.

**Erdogan to Visit Diyarbakir:** On Friday, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will travel to Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeastern province of Diyarbakir, papers report. The mayors of southeastern provinces and representatives of NGOs said that Erdogan's upcoming meeting with intellectuals on Wednesday would help work out a solution to the problems in southeast Turkey. Diyarbakir mayor Osman Baydemir lauded the intellectuals' efforts for brokering peace, and called on Erdogan to take forward steps for lasting peace in the region. Diyarbakir Bar of Lawyers president Sezgin Tanrykulu said that PM Erdogan, who had been discomfited with the visits of foreign delegations to the region, should issue clear messages for peace in Diyarbakir. The head of the Diyarbakir chamber of doctors Ilhan Diken joined them in asking Erdogan to issue peace messages, and stressed that the people in the region do not want to return to the past. Papers expect Erdogan to pledge that economic steps would be taken to halt terror, that regional people should be treated distinctively from the PKK terrorists, and that military operations against the PKK would continue. Erdogan will also encourage businessmen to make investments in the region. Erdogan's office said that the Turkish government had constructed 980 km of new motorways and opened 20 new hospitals in the region in the last 2.5 years.

**Israeli Cruise Liners Rerouted from Turkey to Cyprus:** Two cruise liners carrying some 1,600 Israeli passengers to Turkey shifted to Cyprus on Monday over concerns of terrorist attacks, officials said. Papers cite the Israeli press as saying that there were fears that the cruise liners could be attacked by smaller boats packed with explosives, similar to the attack against the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000. On Friday, the Israeli government had rerouted four Israeli liners with more than 3,500 passengers on board from Turkey's Mediterranean resort of Antalya to Cyprus, citing `grave' security threats.

**Premature Detonation Kills Terrorists Making Bombs:** Istanbul Police said on Monday that the explosion which took place in a building in the Zeytinburnu district of Istanbul was believed to happen while manufacturing `something explosive.' A blast tore through an apartment block in Istanbul on Monday, killing two men thought to have been PKK terrorists. Investigation into the incident continues.

**PKK Terrorist Killed in East Turkey:** One terrorist was killed in a security operation against the PKK in the rural areas of Illic town of eastern Erzincan city on Monday, papers report.

**Abducted Turks' Company Rejects Having Worked With the US in Iraq:** A leading Turkish power transmission company, "Usluel" confirmed on Monday that its three workers -- Metin Ceylan, Fatih Yigit and Pasa Saglam -- were kidnapped in Iraq by an insurgent group called `Al-Fursan Brigades,'

papers report. The company said that it halted activities in Iraq a year ago. 'We have never dealt with the US-led coalition forces while operating in Iraq. Our workers went there to bring back the equipment we had left in Iraq,' Usluel said. Dailies have quoted 'Al-Fursan Brigades' as saying over the weekend that they have issued a 'last warning' for the companies working with US-led forces in Iraq.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION:

"Separatism and Religious Fundamentalism"  
Uluc Gurkan commented in the conservative-sensational "Star" (8/9): "The threat of separatism and religious fundamentalism lately has grown immensely. Both threats, especially after the US occupation of Iraq, have been supported by foreign sources as well. It is clear that the US will not give up its most trusted 'Kurdish Card' in the region and will not exert any effort to help Turkey to eliminate terrorism. Other than a few comments on the issue, no action will come from the US. For months the US wasted Turkey's time on the trilateral summit in Washington. The summit has ended without any concrete results. The US told Turkey that they do not consider the PKK presence in Northern Iraq a priority threat and moved away from the summit leaving Iraq and Turkey face to face. How should Turkey act under these conditions? Without doubt, Turkey cannot continue its 'wait and see' policy any longer. Turkey needs determination as a united state to fight against separatism and religious fundamentalism. Turkey should let its determination be heard internally and across its borders through its renewed National Security Policy Document."

"The Most Urgent Project"  
Okay Gonensin wrote in the mass appeal "Vatan" (8/9): "The name of the most urgent project Turkey should consider and implement is 'internal peace.' The majority of the people in Turkey believe that establishment of internal peace is a must, and any delay on that could carry the country to ethnic conflict. The first signs of this ethnic conflict can already be noticed in several regions of Anatolia. And the growing threat of PKK terrorism is going to carry the country to an ethnic war. Since these terrorist activities are going to hurt the Kurdish people more than anyone else, it would be expected that the Leftist intellectuals in Turkey would support the Kurdish-origin Turkish intellectuals in their efforts. Unfortunately, many names in Turkey who could contribute to internal peace positively are still under the PKK's influence. If terrorist activities increase in Turkey, this will hurt every single citizen of Turkey. If the people who call themselves Kurdish intellectuals are ignorant of this fact and do not exert any effort to stop the bloodshed, they will do the biggest harm to their own people."

MCELDOWNEY